

(Translated by OHTARA)

The Deep Impression Given by the Imperial Forces.
Foreigners in Hankow treat the Imperial Forces
to Suspend its Movement from Hankow.

[Hankow, 5th, by special correspondent Yamada]

Within only two days after the Imperial Army had broken into Hankow, their long awaited destination, they completed the mopping-up operations and since the 27th, the city has been placed under the guard of the Sano and Wakamatsu units. Not only the defense of the banks against the enemy's flooding plan but also the protection of the important buildings in the city, sanitation and the preservation of peace are so perfect and ideal that, since the occupation by the Imperial Army no fires or looting, spoliation have taken place in the city. Not only the Chinese but also many foreigners shed tears of joy for the kind attitude of the Imperial Army.

A pleasant story was told concerning the foreigners who had been so impressed by the outstandingly perfect guarding on the part of our forces and started a movement to have the part of the Imperial Army, which was scheduled to be transferred from the foreign settlement there in alternation with another unit, remain in its present place. The details of the story are as follows:

As soon as the Imperial Army entered Hankow a certain unit led by Captain HIGO Morihide (from KAGOSHIMA Prefecture) of SANO Butai, took over from the British troops the duty of guarding the third special area (the former British Concession). As to the way their performing their guard duty, discipline was maintained with great strictness, and nothing was looted. They treated the foreign rights very properly, and they were far more humane than the Chinese Army toward the others. The foreigners, who had not known what the Japanese Army might do came therefore, to admire the manner of guarding of the HIGO-TAI who were both humane and helpful.

But SANO-Butai was ordered to move ^{to} a certain district on a certain mission. At this news, the foreigners sent a genuine petition to the Army authorities. It was as follows:

"We regret that your unit which has been so friendly to us should be leaving. Can't anything be done to suspend your move? We ask the favour of you, at least to permit that HIGO-Tai stay."

This was delivered from the authorities to SANO-Butai. It was really a beautiful episode, but this BUTAI could do nothing as that movement had already been so decided upon by the military authorities and the foreigners were greatly disappointed.

CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE

I hereby certify that the article attached, written in Japanese, consisting of one page and entitled, "The deep impression given by the Imperial Force. Foreigners entreat the Imperial Army to suspend its movement from Hankow" is an excerpt from the MIYAZAKI SHIMBUN in 1938, Nov. and which has been thenceforth in my custody.

certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of April, 1947

/s/ SANO torata (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place,
on the same date

Witness: /s/ IMANARI Yasutaro (seal)

Def. Doc. No. 998

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ William E. Clark (Seal)

Tokyo, Japan

Date 6th May 1947

Ref Doc 998

皇軍ノ温情ニ感激

轉進取止メ歎願

漢口ノ外人ガ引留策

「漢口ニテ山田特派員五日發」皇軍ガ待望ノ漢口ニ突入スルヤタツタ二日間テ殘敵掃蕩ヲハリ二十七日カラハ佐野、若松兩部隊ノ手テ市内整備ヲシテキルガ、外ハ敵ノ汜濫策ニ備ヘテノ堤防警戒カラ市内重要建物ノ保護、衛生、保安ナドイタレリツクセリテ皇軍占領以來ハ市内ニハ火事モナケレバ掠奪モナイトイフ理想的ナ整備ブリ漢口ノ市街ニ平和ヲ齎シテクレタ皇軍ノアマリニモ親切ナ態度ニ支那人ハモトヨリ多量外人マデ隨喜ノ淚ヲ流シテ喜ンデキル有様ダアマリニモ永際タツタ整備ブリニ外國租界カラ皇軍ノ一部ガ今度他ノ部隊ト交代シ某方面ニ轉出スルノニ對シテ留任運動マデ起ツテキルトイフトテツモナイ愉快ナ話ガ卷起ツタ、ソノ話トイフノハカウダ」

皇軍ガ漢口ヘ突入スルヤイギリス兵ト交代シテ第三特別區（舊イギリス租界）ノ整備ヲ擔當シタノガ佐野部隊肥後盛英大尉（鹿兒島縣出身）ノ指揮

Ref Doc 998

スル○隊ダツタガ、ソノ管備ブリト來テハ軍紀嚴
正ニシテ一物モ犯サズ外國權益ニ對シテハ處置ス
コブル當ヲ得テラリ、オマケニ接シテ見レバ日本
ノ兵隊サンノアタタカ味アルコトハ支那兵ト雲泥
ノ違ヒト來テキル、日本軍ガ來タテラナニヲヤル
カワカラナイト内心ビクビクモノダツタ外人違モ
コノ花モ實モアル肥後隊ノ管備ニ心カラ惚レコン
デシマツタノデアツタ

トコロガ佐野部隊ハアル任務ヲ帯ビテ○○方面ニ轉
進スルコトニナツタノデ、コレヲ聞イタ外人連ハ

折角親シクシテイタミイタ部隊ガ行カレルトハ名

殘惜シイ限リデス、オントカ交代ヲ思ヒ止マツテ

下サイ、セメテ肥後隊ダケデモ

ト真心コメテノ款顔ガ軍當局ヘ提出サレ置カラ佐野

部隊ヘ傳達サレルキド聞クモ美ハシイ話ダツタガ同

部隊デモステニ傳達ヲ決定シタアトデアリイマサラ

如何トモナスヲ得ズ外人ナチモ非常ニ殘念ガツテキ

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文書ノ出所ニ關スル證明書

本書ニ添付セル「皇軍ノ温情ニ感激、轉進取止メ歎
願」ト題スル文書ハ一九三八年十一月某日ノ宮崎新
開ノ切抜ニシテ余ガ記念トシテ保存シ居リタルコト
ヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月八日 於東京

佐野虎太郎印

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタルモノナル

コトヲ證明ス

同日於同所

立會人 今成泰太郎印